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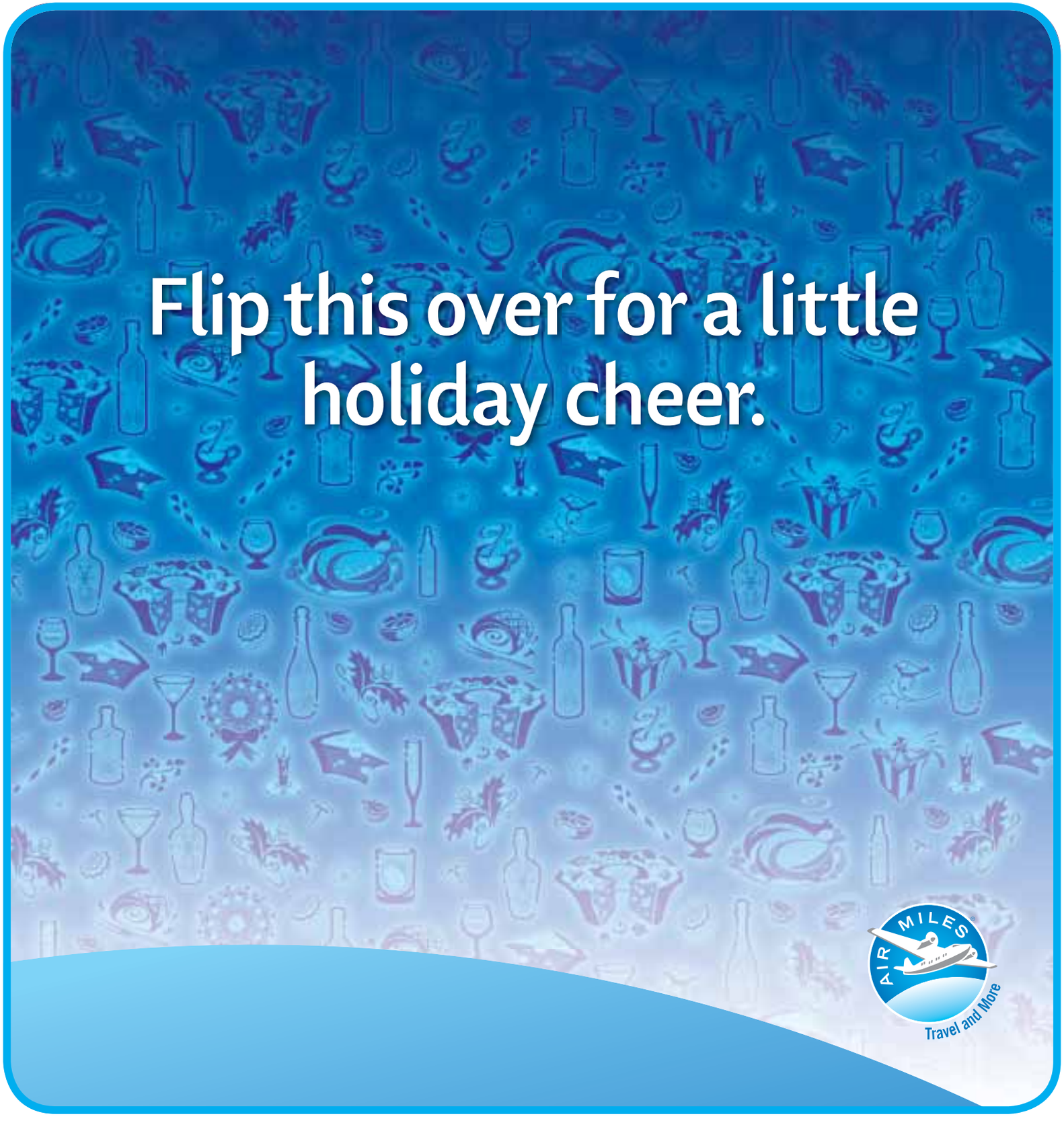

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Meet Valeria.

Originally from Ukraine, Valeria is a college student and dancer, currently residing in Los Angeles and studying economics at USC. We discovered Valeria when she submitted her photos to model@americanapparel.net. Her first modeling gig was at the Las Vegas tradeshow, and she's been lending her exotic look to the company ever since. She is wearing Unisex Stripe Short Sleeve Button-Up Shirt, the Women's Cable Knit Pullover and the Dark Wash High-Waist Jean.

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FOOD-BANK BENEFIT
A DOZEN BANDS GET READY TO ROCK APK LIVE ON FRIDAY {page 9}

QUITE WHITE
WAS KATE THE MOST STYLISH BRIDE OF 2011? {page 11}

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Thursday, December 22, 2011
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Crunching budgets faster than a speeding bullet: It's App Man

UWO grad says city contest sharpened his programming skills **Creation marks Steve Shelby's first app**

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Make no mistake about it: Steve Shelby is a techie, and he's got a knack for numbers.

What he's not is a municipal-government expert who gets his kicks combing through mountains of financial data and figuring out what makes London tick.

"I didn't even know there was an 800-page (budget) document," Shelby, 30, said.

That may have been one of the biggest things he had going for him when he entered a contest to create a web app for the city budget. Shelby, a systems administrator with the RCMP, knew that making the numbers easy to digest was a top priority. What he didn't realize was how long that would take.

"I honestly thought I'd get the data and spit (the app) out," he said Wednesday, the day after being named the grand-prize winner. "I thought maybe I'd put a few hours into it. But it turned out to be a few more than that."

Make that, like, 20 times more. In Shelby's best guesstimate, he spent 60 to 80 hours loading numbers into a database and writing code to reach the end result — a web application that clearly outlines money coming into the city, money going out, and cost.

The app uses charts to help tell the story, meaning users get an overall picture of how each slice of city government figures into the budget pie.

Shelby also created a tab that allows people to rank their budget priorities, suggest how much more or less should be spent in an area, then submit the feedback.

Elaine Gamble, city director of corporate communications, said feedback will be passed along to council for consideration.

The city partnered with UnLondon, a non-profit that promotes embracing technology and social media, and ponied up $10,000 for the contest, designed to get more people interested in the budget process. The parties are expected to meet in the new year and discuss the potential for similar projects.

As for his $2,000 in winnings, Shelby has no set plans. But he does have an idea or two.

"Maybe some more Apple products," he said with a grin.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

▶ Steve Shelby won the grand prize in a contest that challenged Londoners to transform 800 pages of budget data into a user-friendly app.

Council sharpens pencils for cuts

Minutes after the winner's list was named in the city's app contest, councillors started looking for cuts in the draft 2012 budget.

City administrators pitched $2.4 million in cuts or new revenue on Tuesday, inching the budget closer to one without a tax hike. With the $2.4 million figured in, councillors still need to save or generate more than $8 million to avoid an increase.

Tuesday's proposal — which includes giving no new grants to non-profits and eliminating money held in reserve to cover a spike in Ontario Works caseloads — will be discussed during a Jan. 18 committee meeting.

METRO

On the web

Check out Steve Shelby's budget app and other submissions at budgetapp-contest.com.

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Winter gets warm welcome

Experts say warmer weather expected to continue in near future
Colder air from north could drop and smack London in new year

ANGELA MULLINS
@METRONEWS.CA

Warmer and wetter than normal.

That just about sums up Environment Canada's winter forecast for southwestern Ontario.

"I don't think anyone's going to see a radical change to the weather pattern we've been getting for the past couple of months … at least not in the near future," meteorologist Geoff Coulson said.

But, in case you missed it, winter is officially here. It arrived at 12:30 a.m. Thursday, just when London's overnight low was expected to be hovering around -1 C. For the sake of comparison, that's generally considered the average high for this time of year.

Exactly how much warmer than average things will be remains to be seen. Environment Canada's long-term forecasts don't go into that much detail.

Coulson said the difference between average and reality "may be slight."

"January is traditionally our coldest month. If the normal high for mid-January is -4 C, it could be (just) a little warmer and be -2 C," he said.

How things shake out on the mercury will have a lot to do with what form — rain or snow — the above-average precipitation will take.

Coulson for one is still trying to wrap his head around the unseasonable warmth we've seen in recent weeks.

The experts were on point when they said December would be warmer than normal, he said.

"But I didn't really expect every day to be a little warmer than normal," Coulson said. "This month … (the) cold days have been kind of one-hit wonders."

-1 C/-7 C
Average overnight low and daytime high for this time of year in London.

Window. Replacement

▶ Workers, from left, Jeff Legge, Dave Kooistra and Steve Desroches of Glass Canada replace a window Wednesday morning at The Tasting Room, 483 Richmond St.

ANGELA MULLINS/METRO

Vandals cause 2 a.m. smash

A manager at the restaurant said someone was cleaning inside at about 2 a.m. when they heard a crash and saw three men running down the street. Vandals have smashed the restaurant's front windows several times since the eatery opened nine years ago, the manager said.

CAW calls for review of locomotive-plant purchase

Canada's largest private-sector union is calling on Ottawa to review the purchase of Canada's only locomotive-manufacturing plant by U.S.-based Caterpillar Inc. last year.

The Canadian Auto Workers union says hundreds of jobs at the Electro-Motive plant in London are potentially at stake.

In a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, CAW president Ken Lewenza said the future of the plant is in peril.

Caterpillar bought the London plant in June 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ken Lewenza

650 Number of production and skilled-trades workers CAW Local 27 represents at Electro-Motive.

News in brief

Effort dims on light-bulb ban

Ontario residents will have an extra two years before they have to switch off all their incandescent light bulbs.

The province is matching an earlier decision by the federal government to ban all 100- and 75-watt incandescent bulbs by January 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Food drive gets closer to goal

With less than 24 hours to go in London's Business Cares food drive, organizers are hoping for a last-minute push to help them reach their goal.

As of Wednesday afternoon, the drive has hit 75 per cent of its 228,000-pound food goal and 70 per cent of its cash goal. It's a big turnaround from this past weekend, when levels were languishing around 30 per cent.

AM980/AM980.CA

1 news

Tech-savvy Canadian kids fuel a pre-Christmas spike in 'Is Santa Real?' Google searches.

1 Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to **m.metronews.ca**

On the web at metronews.ca

Thousands of North Koreans mourn Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang while defectors send leaflets via balloon. Slide shows at metronews.ca/inpictures

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Tory MP speaks out for rights of unborn

He deplores 'subhuman' state

A Conservative MP says Parliament should consider extending human rights to unborn children.

Stephen Woodworth's view is seen as an attempt to reopen the debate around abortion laws.

"Canadian law provides no human rights protection whatsoever for children before the moment of complete birth," Woodworth said yesterday.

"This means that in Canada a child is legally considered to be subhuman while his or her little toe remains in the birth canal, even if he or she is breathing."

The MP from Kitchener, Ont., doesn't explicitly mention the word abortion, but he gently suggests it is time to "examine" the question of granting human rights protections to unborn children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PM's blockade

- Woodworth's views face a bleak future in Parliament.
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed in the last election to stamp out any debate and defeat any private member's bills that might arise from members of his caucus on abortion.

Homecoming. Love sails in

▶ It's great to be home: Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, kisses her girlfriend of two years, Petty Officer 3rd Class Citlalic Snell, on Wednesday. Gaeta's ship returned from 80 days at sea.

BRIAN J. CLARK/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;

80-day voyage ends with a kiss

It is a time-honoured tradition at U.S. navy homecomings — one lucky sailor is chosen to be first off the ship for the long-awaited kiss with a loved one. Yesterday in Virginia Beach, Va., for what is believed to be the first time, the happily reunited couple was gay.

Topless activists accuse 'butchers' of abuse

They say they were made to undress in the woods in freezing temperatures, punched in the head and back, threatened with death and rape and smeared with paint.

A group of women from a Ukrainian topless-protest group yesterday recounted their ordeal at the hands of security officials in neighbouring Belarus.

Oksana Shechko said she and two fellow activists were first interrogated on a bus for 12 hours. Then the indignities began.

"It was a real fight for survival," Shechko said after returning to Kyiv.

"We ended up in the hands of the butchers who kill and terrify the Belarusian people."

Shechko, 24, said the activists were made to sit still on the bus for several hours, prevented from speaking or moving.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Activists Aleksandra Nemchinova, left, Inna Shevchenko, centre, and Oksana Shechko tell their story in Kyiv yesterday.

"If we moved our heads or hands, they beat us," Shechko said.

They were left half-naked in a forest, where they eventually found help from area residents.

Shechko claimed they were punished for a protest in Minsk in which they bared their breasts to bring attention to President Aleksander Lukashenko's crackdown on the opposition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brutal rule

- Lukashenko has repressed opposition and media since becoming leader of Belarus, a former Soviet republic, in 1994.
- In December 2010 elections, he was declared winner, but protesters denounced alleged vote fraud.
- Police arrested around 700 people, some of whom remain in jail.

Prize car in a crash

A U.S. man who won a $380,000 Lamborghini in a contest crashed the sports car six hours after he got it.

The lime green Murcielago Roadster was on its way to a Las Vegas body shop yesterday for repairs.

David Dopp said he was taking friends and family on rides when the vehicle hit ice or loose gravel and started spinning. No one was injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prince's new challenge

Britain's Prince Harry, 27, says he'll be deployed to Afghanistan for a second time, a British news report said yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Prince Harry

A washroom voyeur

Hamilton police say a 19-year-old man faces voyeurism charges after a cellphone camera was discovered in the ceiling of a women's washroom.

Police say the phone, in video record mode, was placed in the ceiling tiles above a toilet stall.

Three women entered the stall before the phone was discovered.

The man was held for a bail hearing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Controversial EU airline carbon charge gets go-ahead from court

MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ An airplane takes off at Berlin's Tegel airport during snowy and stormy weather last January.

U.S. airlines failed Wednesday to block an EU law charging airlines flying to Europe for their carbon pollution. The decision by an EU court was widely hailed by environmentalists but the Fitch ratings agency said it raised the spectre of a global trade dispute.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg dismissed arguments that imposing the European Union's cap-and-trade carbon-credits program on flights to and from European airports infringes on national sovereignty or violates international aviation treaties. U.S. and other non-European airlines had sued the EU, arguing that they were exempt from the law.

Environmentalists called the law a first step in controlling carbon emissions in a key economic sector. But Fitch Ratings said the decision could deepen rather than quell the dispute, raised in a lawsuit brought by U.S. and Canadian airlines acting through the industry trade organization Airlines for America. The protest was supported by China, India and others with international carriers.

The U.S. airlines said the regulation was tantamount to "an exorbitant tax," but the EU said the added costs would amount to a few dollars per ticket. Fitch added that retaliation could come in the form of slot allocations at airports and authorizing routes, especially in developing countries.

The program, due to go into effect Jan. 1, aims to make airlines accountable for their carbon emissions. Aviation is the fastest-growing source of carbon pollution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 36.65 (11,753.53)	+ 0.42¢ (97.48¢ US)

OIL	Natural gas
+ 1.43¢ US ($98.67 US)	$3.155 US (+ 2.7¢ US)

Gold
$1,613.60 US (- $4.00 US)

Yahoo and Facebook get closer

Yahoo is deepening its connections with Facebook's online social network.

The latest bond announced late Tuesday will enable Facebook users to share more of their activities on Yahoo's websites, including which stories they are reading.

Yahoo Inc. introduced the Facebook-sharing option in its main new section three months ago. The same feature will now be available in 26 other parts of Yahoo's site, including its "omg" service for entertainment news and sections devoted to television, movies and games.

Yahoo is hoping to give people more reasons to visit and stick around its website. Yahoo ultimately wants to sell more online advertising — an area where Facebook has been gaining ground. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ A customer looks at a BlackBerry Torch at a Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif.

Proposed takeovers of RIM dismissed

- Analysts grapple over BlackBerry maker's future
- Shares up 10 per cent with proposal from Amazon

With more takeover rumours roiling around Research In Motion and lifting its stock price, analysts said Wednesday there's little chance the struggling BlackBerry maker will be acquired in the near future.

"I think from the board's perspective, which tends to be friendly to the co-CEOs, they will want to give them a chance because six months ago this was a $50 stock," William Blair & Co. analyst Anil Doradla said.

Reuters reported Tuesday that Internet retailer Amazon.com recently approached RIM to discuss a takeover, but the Canadian company rejected the move. In the past, Microsoft and Nokia also dabbled in potential offers, but they were also rebuffed by RIM. Samsung, a growing player in the smartphone market, also has been named as a potential suitor.

$265M RIM's quarterly profits plunged to US$265 million, a drop from $911 million in the same three-month period last year.

"We continue to view near-term mergers and acquisitions for RIM as very unlikely given the company's dismal performance and uncertain outlook," said National Bank Financial analyst Kris Thompson.

RIM has disappointed investors recently with the delay of its next generation of BlackBerry smartphones until late 2012 and disappointing financial results.

BMO Capital Markets analyst Tim Long said an acquisition is unlikely due to RIM's business model.

RIM makes the operating system and puts it into its own handset, delivering a complete product. It's also a service provider to its corporate customers with secure, encrypted email.

"RIM is the only hybrid equipment manufacturer and service provider," Long wrote in a note.

Activist shareholder Vic Alboini said the company will either be acquired as is, or broken up and sold. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economic confidence down, sales up: Reports

A new survey suggests that more than a third of Canadians — including well over half of young people — feel more stressed about their financial situation now than a year ago.

The survey by insurer Sun Life Financial says 36 per cent of respondents are more worried about their personal finances than last year. It comes as the economy slows down and volatile markets, squeezed incomes and recession fears erode consumer and business confidence. Trends have been moving negatively for months as consumers retrench and businesses worry about the economic future. A scaleback in spending is already affecting the Christmas shopping season and could lead to tighter money next year.

Still, Statistics Canada reported that retail sales rose one per cent to $38.6 billion in October, their third straight monthly increase. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Norway reaches out to partners

Norway says it will provide $9.3 billion US to the International Monetary Fund to help heavily indebted nations avoid default. Norway is not part of the EU and its economy is cushioned by income from its oil and gas exports. Still, Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg noted that it's in Norway's interest to help European trading parties "who are now in a difficult economic situation." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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STRIKE THE HARP AND JOIN THE CHORUS

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I'm not much for Christmas carols.

I enjoy the joking songs, like Santa Baby or The Christmas Shoes, but otherwise the only holiday tune I like is the creepy Carol of the Bells, which brings to mind the warm holiday image of Santa Claus being stabbed repeatedly with a candy cane.

So, in a bid to make myself a better, more Christmassy person, I decided this week to open myself up to some holiday "classics" for the first time in years. And let me say that, upon further review, Christmas songs are bonkers.

There's We Wish You a Merry Christmas, with its special yuletide message of "Bring us some figgy pudding or we will tear you limb from limb."

There's Winter Wonderland, the story of a man planning a fun day that includes building a snowman, pretending it's a priest and talking to it about his marital future. I'm thinking his belle doesn't know this plan yet and that, if she did, she'd have to "hurry on her way," Frosty-style.

"Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow."

Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow. He leaves him there, possibly for dead. I must say it rather improves the song.

The hands-down winner, though, of Craziest Christmas Carol is Do You Hear What I Hear? I assume it was written when absinthe still had kick.

It starts with the wind asking a lamb if it sees a dancing star. In most songs, that would be excitement enough. But there's more: The lamb asks his shepherd, with whom he has a good working relationship, if he hears singing.

You would think the shepherd would then realize he's been putting in too many 12-hour days and should really take that Dead Sea stroll he's been saving for. But instead he runs to the mighty king, who apparently has no security at his mighty castle, and tells the monarch the joyous news: "I found a talking lamb!"

No — of course, he tells him that a child is shivering in the cold. With no women around, the king and shepherd's best plan for getting the baby warm is to bring it silver and gold.

Between the talking animal and the potential case of child neglect, this song is one hell of a wild ride.

So, I'll admit, Christmas carols are more fun than I remembered. They should be sung far and wide by you and your family and your lamb, if you have one.

And though it's been said, many times, many ways: Bring me my figgy pudding.

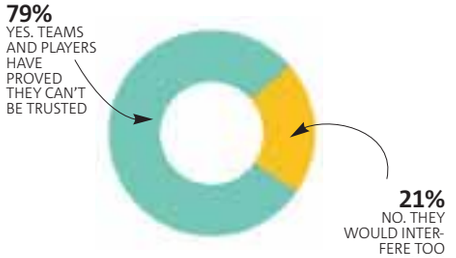
Or else.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should independent doctors monitor concussions in pro sports?



Local tweets

- **@AmyAgs Buchmann:** Hanging out in London for the holidays! It's great to be home :) #ldnont
- **@thepodfellas:** Meteorologist this and global warming that, the real reason we have no snow in #ldnont is that I bought a snow blower this year. #beprepared
- **@NikkehSass:** Bus line budders annoy me 10 times more than GO Train line jumpers. & I don't think she could hear my sarcasm through her headset. #ldnont
- **@Shawnanana1:** Treating myself to a massage at Priority Massage in #wortleyVillage the perfect start to my holidays! #ldnont
- **@coozeblow:** One more exam... Weeeeeee #lastexam #uwo
- **@WayneWriteOn:** See, now this is why I could never live in Vancouver. #rain #ldnont
- **@iranight:** What a desolate place #uwo campus is right now. I feel like I'm in #Chernobyl #lastpossibleexamdateftw
- **@DanMacLellan:** Something tells me we're going to pay for all this mild weather a few weeks from now.. warm lake water/cold Prairie air= watch out #LDNont.)

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

Daily Zoom

Christmas comes early

Taking treats from a tiger

Sumatran tiger cubs tore apart a wrapped Christmas present at Taronga Zoo on Wednesday in Sydney. Animals received Christmas-themed enrichment foods as part of the zoo's regular program to encourage the animals to forage for food and help improve hunting abilities.

GETTY IMAGES

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

Quite the yuletide feast

Barry the Tasmanian devil got a bowl of kangaroo blood with offal and bones while freshly made popcorn was served to the gorillas, who are kept on a low-fat diet. The zoo's seals got blue swimmer crabs and fish snacks delivered in ice from the Sydney Fish Markets, the CBC reported. METRO

metro

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AMANDA GRANT/METRO LONDON

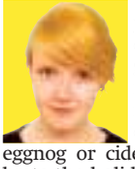
▶ Matt Trocchi rehearses with the band Lewis Gayfield, who will be performing at the Holiday fundraiser on Friday.

Celebrating the season

Musicians from all over the city coming together for a holiday benefit show at the APK Live

BACKSTAGE PASS

AMANDA GRANT
METRO LONDON



The time of year has come to gather with family and friends, drink eggnog or cider and celebrate the holidays. It's also when many take the time to give back.

On Friday night, Half a Dino will host a holiday benefit show at APK Live, gathering donations for the London Food Bank.

Half A Dino is a promotions and events collective lead by Matt Trocchi, the man behind many of APK Live's high profile and high energy shows this past year.

"Every time I put on a show, I didn't have a name to put the event under," Trocchi says. "I needed to recruit people to get involved and share the responsibilities of promoting and running shows."

Trocchi and a group of friends launched Half a Dino in September, building up local recognition and a reputation for great concerts. Now the group is giving back, organizing the holiday fundraiser that boasts performances by 12 local acts.

"We've got a pretty good mixture of bands," Trocchi says. "Some folk bands, some louder bands, some solo projects and a DJ set. I'm really excited for Nope to play, one of the bands from rock lottery."

Trocchi says every band he asked to participate was eager to get involved.

"Everyone wanted to come together to raise money for the food bank," he says. "They were all really into the idea."

With a dozen groups performing, for many musicians it's an opportunity to spend the night with their peers celebrating the season. For others, it's a chance to play to friends who are usually out of town and have come home for the holidays.

"I picked all local bands to perform on purpose," Trocchi says. "It's community-focused. It's about gathering friends and it's a time when people don't have to be working so they can relax."

Local acts like CFL Session, Lonnie in the Garden, More More and one of Trocchi's own bands Lewis Gayfield, will perform, beginning at 6 p.m.

Admission is two canned goods, although people are encouraged to bring as much as they can to support the food bank.

Events

London will be buzzing with festive events this weekend.

Other events Thursday night APK Live is saying thank you to London's dubstep fans with a year-end show featuring Noise Level and DJ Anthologic. Stuart McLean is in town performing a Vinyl Café Christmas at Centennial Hall on Thursday and Friday. Art Fusion is hosting its 20th urban art show entitled Home for the Holidays. It is at APK Live on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Fighting against false 'idols'

American Idol runner-up Archuleta taking a break to serve on a Mormon church mission

American Idol runner-up David Archuleta will take a break from his singing career to serve a two-year proselytizing mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The contestant from the 2007-2008 season made the announcement during a Christmas concert Monday in downtown Salt Lake City, according to the Deseret News.

The 20-year-old Miami native, who grew up in Murray, Utah, said he's not quitting music, but feels a strong call to serve the church.

A video of the concert on Archuleta's website shows him overwhelmed with emotion and crying as he talks about his plans. The crowd screams wildly with the news and gives him a standing ovation.

"It's not because someone told me that I'm supposed to do it, and not because I no longer want to do music, but because it's the feeling that I've felt I need to do this with my life," Archuleta told the crowd.

Archuleta was 16 when he competed on Idol.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLES SYKES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ David Archuleta

2 scene

Split

Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard have separated after nearly 30 years together. A publicist for Lange confirmed the split Monday. People magazine first reported the separation, saying the actors concluded their relationship almost two years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CBS has year's biggest margin of victory in prime time ratings

Did Jones get the 'X'?

There are rumours The X-Factor host Steve Jones won't be back next season Jones' rep denies the claims

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Steve Jones reportedly will not return as host the U.S. edition of The X-Factor after one season on the job, according to Hollyscoop.

"He got terrible reviews from critics when he started, and things haven't got better. There have been mistakes and he just doesn't seem to have the knack for dealing with contestants," a source says.

"The executives at Fox have already decided not to renew his contract and so, short of a miracle happening, it is pretty much a done deal that he will not take part next season."

However, Jones' rep told People magazine that the reports of his imminent dismissal were "a fabrication." "There have been absolutely no conversations about Steve Jones leaving The X Factor," the representative told the magazine.

It's sad that a rumoured firing is the only way to make people care about The X-Factor.

Steve Jones

Timberlake off the market?

I take this with a huge grain of salt, but some people out there on the world wide web are reporting that Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel are engaged. (Remember: This is the same Internet that also said that Bon Jovi died earlier this week.) Lainey Gossip points to this Tweet from a gallery owner in Jackson, Wy.: "Word on the street is that Justin Timberlake proposed to Jessica Biel at the Amangani last night...we're picking out post-engagement presents for them just in case they come in! Trying to play it cool..."

Justin Timberlake

Sounds like a huge publicity stunt from the gallery store owner but you never know.

Justin Bieber

More baby troubles for the Biebs

Justin Bieber may have thought taking a DNA test had gotten him clear of Mariah Yeater, the woman claiming Bieber is the father of her baby, but as far as Yeater is concerned nothing has been resolved.

"I dropped my lawsuit, but never my claim," Yeater tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "I still definitely want a DNA test and I want to refile my paternity case — I do believe he is the father."

METRO

Penn a 'communist'

Sean Penn reportedly got into a screaming match at LAX airport recently with former co-star — and longtime Penn critic — Maria Conchita Alonso, the actress reveals. "I said, 'You are a communist, Sean Penn.' He said, 'You are a pig!' So I said, 'And you are a communist a–hole! Is it great to live the way you do as a communist?'" Alonso says. The actress, who starred with Penn in 1988's Colors, says she wanted to apologize.

METRO

Angry Anthony eyes custody battle with JLo

While they've remained civil since their July split, it's reportedly about to get very ugly between Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, with a "vicious" custody battle on the way, according to Us Weekly.

The trigger seems to be Lopez's new boyfriend, Casper Smart, and his apparent bonding with Lopez and Anthony's 3-year-old twins, Max and Emme. Antony reportedly "hit the roof" after seeing photos of Lopez, Smart and the kids enjoying Thanksgiving together in Hawaii and is "going back on his word and saying he wants joint custody," a source says.

"He wants to make Jennifer suffer because she's having fun with someone new, and he knows this will hurt her on the deepest level."

METRO

Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart

Celebrity tweets

@joelmchale

Thanks news outlets. I am now fully informed about how the Post Office is busier around the holidays. Man, was I in the dark.

@rosariodawson

I'm so glad I made it back to London in time to surprise my Mama with Duran Duran at the O2! They just played my song! Rio!!!!!!

@NathanFillion

Dear Morning Coffee, How was your ride to work on top of my car? Glad you made it. But now you're iced coffee.

@sarahksilverman

Had a war time dream where I had to go to battle but I didn't want to because I had a zit

Hathaway in no New York hurry to tie the knot

Anne Hathaway is ready to marry fiancé Adam Shulman — but apparently not as ready as the New York Post would like.

The newspaper reported earlier this week that the couple had set an October 2012 wedding date and had even sent out save-the-date cards to guests for a lavish, New York-area ceremony.

However Hathaway's rep insists that there is no date and no cards have been sent out, according to a report from E! News.

METRO

Anne Hathaway

Marc Anthony's no Scrooge

Marc Anthony knows how to treat his employees at Christmas.

As an end-of-the-year bonus, the singer reportedly treated his 14-person staff to a trip to the Dominican Republic, according to TMZ. Anthony is even covering all the food, drink and entertainment the staff can handle during their five-day stay at the La Romana resort. Not too shabby.

Marc Anthony

METRO

In and out of fashion

The most unavoidable and most underrated fashion moments of 2011

WHO TAKES THE CROWN?

KENYA HUNT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Catherine Middleton, Kate Moss and Charlene Wittstock went head-to-head in the battle of the best-dressed brides. The couture creations all took to the catwalk-like church aisles to be picked apart. Here's what we learned for it all.

1 Long-sleeves are back, thanks to the Duchess of Cambridge. Just look at the new Twilight movie.

2 A pretty gown can't hide the fact that you can't stand the groom. We can barely remember how the Princess of Monaco's dress looked, but we'll never forget that eerie frozen smile on her face.

3 Never mind that the idea has been a staple of cheesetastic weddings for years, it's now perfectly OK to have 15 bridesmaids in your wedding — as long as they look like little pre-Raphaelite angels like the ones in Kate Moss'. You want to channel rock and roll royalty, rather than prom queens from hell a la the movie Bridesmaids.

4 Never, ever, five more evers, give your maid of honour a hotter dress than yours. We've all heard the horror stories about a rival woman stealing the bride's day. But your own sister? The Pippa Middleton Ass Appreciation Society is still going strong on Facebook. But have you seen any Kate Middleton Victorian Bustle Admiration Councils, hmmm?

5 Kate Moss is cooler than the real Royals. Mark Ronson, Naomi Campbell, Vivienne Westwood and Marc Jacobs were just a few of the people who attended her wedding.

GETTY IMAGES

Kate and Jamie are in love with a rock 'n' world.

GETTY IMAGES

Kate gets to grips with the Royal wave.

GETTY IMAGES

Here comes the reluctant bride.

The single most reason not to do drugs

Witness John Galliano's horrific video rants and spectacularly fast fall from grace climaxing with his dismissal from Christian Dior and his own eponymous line to boot.

The year's most coveted designery

The prize goes to Marc Jacobs, whose entire spring '12 ready-to- wear collection was stolen while in transit from Paris to London. Shortly afterwards, roughly $400,000 of Louis Vuitton goods, also Jacobs-designed, were nicked at an airport in Paris.

When overdressed became boring

One can only look at a sheer top and pasties so many times before it loses its shock value. Simply put, Lady Gaga's outlandish outfits simply don't look that outlandish anymore. And the same goes for Nicki Minaj, Katy Perry, Jessie J and pop music's other crazy ladies. We vote for a make-under.

THE YEAR'S MOST OVERRATED FASHION PLATES

THE KARDASHIANS

- Sky-high Louboutins, black stretch jeans and leopard print do not a fashion icon make.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

- She makes this list simply for inconsistency. Sometimes she nails it. Other times, such as her crystal-encrusted nude bodysuit on the American Music Awards, she fails miserably.

JESSICA SIMPSON

- Her clothing line is reportedly nearly worth a billion dollars. But we don't get it. Have you seen the way she dresses?

WILLOW SMITH

- This little tyke wears way too many garments all at once. Someone please fire one of her stylists.

3 life

Style pick

Keep your eyes on Beyoncé's little sis

Fashion blogs and magazines have rightfully acknowledged how amazing Solange Knowles has been looking lately. But it's time for the rest of the world to get in line. Her natural hair, artful print mixing and flair for boyish silhouettes strikes the perfect balance between classic and eccentrically cool.

MWN

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Solange looking fab

Michael Kors goes from runway to Wall Street after investors clamour for stock

Double duty Christmas decor

When in a holiday pinch, use what you've got

DESIGN CENTRE

KARL LOHNES
HOME@METRONEWS.CA

For me, Christmas is all about setting a festive mood with holiday decor.

Although it would be nice to buy new holiday decor items each year, I find myself wanting to get creative with things from years past to create a more personal style to my space this year.

Here's a few ways to create interesting holiday focal points with things you might already have around the house.

Use your wreath as a centrepiece

Last year's faux wreath or this year's fresh one hanging on the front door can easily take a horizontal position and become a festive centrepiece.

Place a few pillar candles, some holiday ornaments or a lonely poinsettia plant inside the wreath and you've got an impressive centrepiece for any table. Got an old plastic wreath? Spray paint it with a trendy colour like teal or citrus green for one last year of beauty.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A wreath can go from door to table as a decorative focal point.

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Funky holiday lights brighten up unused glass vases.

Display holiday lights in a tall vase

Fill various shaped glass vases with LED string lights and group together on a sofa table or in front of an used fireplace to create a modern holiday glow. Clear vases display multi-coloured lights best while white lights look great in coloured glass vases.

This idea also makes a safe night light in a guest room, hallway or foyer to guide guests throughout your space with having to turn on bright overhead lights at night.

Simple tricks

Large glass Mason jars make great hurricane lanterns to hold pillar candles. Frost the outsides with spray snow for a wintery look.

- **Decorative wrapping papers** make festive disposable table runners or placemats, and holiday ribbons make great napkin rings.
- **Birch fire logs** can get glamourous with a quick spray of metallic gold or silver paint and stacked beside the fireplace.

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A WORTHY LESSON IN STAIN CONTROL

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLESMACPHERSON.COM

Hi Charles,
I bought a beautiful pink leather jacket and somehow got a couple of ballpoint pen marks on it about an inch or two long. Do you know of any method to remove these marks?

ISTOCK

▶ For precise stain removal, try using a Q-Tip.

I've done some research on this and you do have a difficult problem on your hands. I have two suggestions for you. But before you do anything, remember to please first check the suggested solution on an area that is not visible to ensure you do not damage the leather. I have two options for you to try:

1. Rub the ink mark with a soft cloth dampened with milk, then sponge it with warm water.
2. Try dabbing a Q-Tip in rubbing alcohol then using the Q-Tip to slowly work on the ink mark. My only concern is that the alcohol may damage the colour of the leather.

So definitely test this method first!

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

Say 'cheese' for the New Year

Are you having people over to ring in 2012? Serve this healthy version of cheese fondue

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The fondue serves four people

Want a trick for starting the year off on a fun and healthy note? Drag out the fondue pot!

This recipe lets you eat sinfully without the sin. The secret is in the blend of cheeses: A low-fat Jarlsberg, a creamy light brie and already low-calorie pecorino Romano make a rich fondue that no one will guess is low in calories and fat.

Traditional cheese fondue can pack 670 calories and 29 grams of fat per serving. This version comes in with just 227 calories and 10 grams of fat.

Preparation:

1. Heat broiler. Set top oven rack about 10 cm (4 inches) below broiler.
2. Cut crusts off slices of bread. Cut each bread slice into 4 equal strips. Wrap 1 bread strip halfway around one grape and poke long metal skewer through bread and grape so skewer is pushed through both ends of bread strip with grape in middle. Repeat with remaining bread strips and grapes.
3. Place all 16 skewers on baking sheet. Broil 2 mins. or until bread is browned, turning once halfway through broiling. Set aside.
4. In saucepan over medium-high, bring water and shallot to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, until shallots are tender, about 2 minutes.
5. In small bowl, mix arrowroot with 30 ml (1 oz) of Champagne. Pour remaining Champagne into saucepan with shallot. Whisk arrowroot and Champagne mix into saucepan. Continue to cook; whisk until mixture thickens, 30 seconds.
6. Reduce heat to low and add Jarlsberg, whisking constantly until cheese melts. Add pecorino and continue whisking until melted. Repeat with brie. Season to taste with salt and pinch of cayenne. Pour mix into fondue pot and serve with bread and grape skewers for dipping. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO

Ingredients:

- 4 slices of light whole-wheat bread
- 16 seedless red grapes
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced shallot
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 125 ml (4 oz) demi sec Champagne, divided
- 125 g (4 oz) Jarlsberg light cheese, finely shredded
- 60 g (2 oz) pecorino Romano cheese, grated
- 60 g (2 oz) light brie, cut up with rind removed
- Salt and cayenne pepper

Weekly Cookbook

Mary Karlin's Artisan Cheese Making at Home is filled with easy-to-follow instructions for making mouthwatering cheese and dairy items.

This lavishly illustrated guide features more than 80 recipes for a diverse range of cheeses: From quick and satisfying Mascarpone and Queso Blanco to cultured products like Crème Fraîche and Yogurt to flavourful selections like Saffron-Infused Manchego, Irish-Style Cheddar, and Bloomy Blue Log Chèvre.

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4 sports

The one who didn't get away

THE HOCKEY NEWS

MURRAY PAM
OTTAWA@METRONEWS.CA

Sometimes, they say, the best trades are the ones you don't make. For Sens GM Bryan Murray that axiom lives and breathes in the form of hulking rookie Jared Cowen.

Back at the 2009 draft, Murray was eager to swing a deal that would allow him to select Nazem Kadri in the first round. It never happened as the rival Maple Leafs scooped up the London Knights centre at No. 7, leaving Murray and his braintrust to "settle" two selections later on Cowen, the Spokane Chiefs defenceman who was recovering from a pair of knee injuries.

Fast forward to the present: Kadri is plying his trade for the AHL Marlies while Cowen is flourishing on the Senators back end. The 20-year-old Saskatoon native is exceeding all expectations, munching minutes and shutting down opponents with terrific efficiency. He's using his imposing 6-foot-5, 230-pound frame and accompanying wingspan to neutralize attacking forwards, serving notice he has what it takes to develop into a high-impact defender. Heck, Cowen has managed to post a plus-two mark despite playing for a team that has surrendered the most goals in the NHL.

Cowen's game really elevated when the Sens needed him most. Prior to Filip Kuba's shoulder injury Nov. 19, Cowen was averaging 16:30 of ice time per game. In the first nine games Kuba was out, that number shot up to 25:00 per game, and inched a minute higher when Sergei Gonchar was felled by the same injury.

Cowen, a soft-spoken gentle giant, is maintaining a humble approach. "I am in the right kind of situation whereby you are not given the minutes, but you have to earn it," he said.

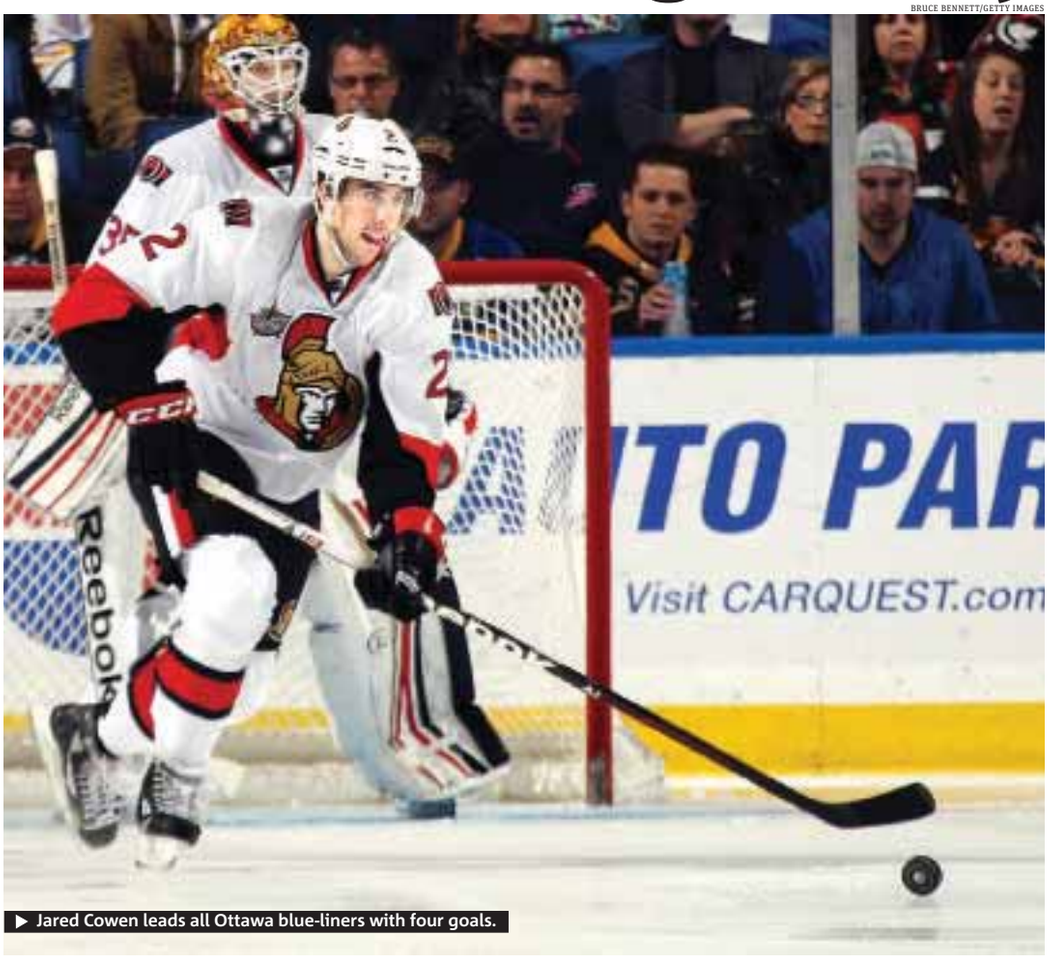
He's also earning kudos for his surprising offensive contributions. On Dec. 13 he scored an overtime winner in Buffalo, then capped the week with a four-point effort against Pittsburgh. Cowen leads all Senators defencemen in goals with four.

Coach Paul MacLean has been duly impressed. "As far as our young players are concerned Cowen has been the most consistent," MacLean said.

It shouldn't come as a complete shock; Cowen has leadership pedigree. He was captain in Spokane and an assistant captain for the 2010 Canadian world junior championship entry. He also was a key contributor to AHL Binghamton's Calder Cup triumph last season.

Speaking of the AHL, Kadri has eight goals in 22 games for the Baby Leafs this season before getting called up to the big club on Wednesday. Who knows, maybe one day he will find his way, like Cowen has.

BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Jared Cowen leads all Ottawa blue-liners with four goals.

Quoted

"No matter who you are, you have consequences to your actions when they escalate to this level of violence."

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE MELISSA SARAGOSA ON FLOYD MAYWEATHER. THE WELTERWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION, ABOVE, WAS SENTENCED TO 90 DAYS IN JAIL IN A LAS VEGAS COURTROOM ON WEDNESDAY. MAYWEATHER PLEADED GUILTY TO A REDUCED BATTERY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGE AND NO CONTEST TO TWO HARASSMENT CHARGES. THE CASE STEMMED FROM A HAIR-PULLING, PUNCHING AND ARM-TWISTING ARGUMENT WITH HIS EX-GIRLFRIEND JOSIE HARRIS WHILE TWO OF THEIR CHILDREN WATCHED IN SEPTEMBER 2010.

Bulls reach five-year extension with Rose

Derrick Rose was going down the list, thanking just about everyone who helped him become one of the NBA's best players, when he looked to his right.

Seated off to the side was his mother, Brenda.

"I think I can finally say this now. Mom, I finally made it," he said.

Rose, the Chicago Bulls' superstar point guard and the league's reigning MVP, agreed Wednesday to a five-year contract extension worth more than $94 million US that kicks in next season.

It's fair to say Rose made it long before this latest news conference. The extension is just another stop in a rapid and steady rise from a tough neighbourhood on Chicago's south side to a starring role with his hometown team after being taken with the No. 1 pick in the draft.

He's gone from the NBA's top rookie to all-star to MVP in just three seasons, becoming the youngest player to win the award. That's why the extension was more a formality than a surprise.

The only thing missing from his resume is a championship and that's something he hopes to change in his fourth season.

"He embodies all the characteristics that you look for," coach Tom Thibodeau said. "It's a lot more than the talent.

"The talent is the obvious part. Then, when you look at his will to win, basketball IQ, unselfishness, his humility — I think those are the things that you can build a championship-calibre team around."

The Bulls came close to winning it all last year, leading the league with 62 victories during the regular season and advancing to the Eastern Conference final before losing to Miami.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will Hay strike gold a second time?

Coach brings same energy, drive to Canada's junior hockey squad that he did in leading team to title in 1995

Asked to describe his coach in three words, Brendan Gallagher almost makes it.

"Competitive, knowledgeable, competitive," says Gallagher, then continues.

"He wants to win more than any other coach."

There is certainly a tirelessness about Don Hay, who coaches Gallagher on both the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants and the Canadian junior men's hockey team.

During practice, Hay moves quickly, covers a lot of ice and continually bangs his stick on the ice. He reacts to his players' successes or failures during drills with a gesture or a grimace.

Seventeen years after coaching Canada to gold at the 1995 World Junior Championship in Red Deer, Alta., Hay is stepping behind Canada's bench again with the 2012 edition of the team.

Canada opens the World Junior Championship Sunday in Edmonton versus Finland.

Hay can join Brent Sutter, Craig Hartsburg and Terry Simpson as the only men to coach Canada to gold twice.

Those men did it in back-to-back years. The long interval between Hay's stints is by his own choosing.

A successful junior coach with three Memorial Cup titles, as well as some NHL coaching experience, Hay would have been a leading candidate for the job in recent years if he'd thrown his hat into the ring.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Don Hay looks up ice as he runs his team through drills in practice on Wednesday.

But Hay chose 2012, when the tournament returns to Alberta and the scene of his success in '95.

"Being in Canada first and foremost, I feel comfortable coaching in Canada and in a North American rink," Hay said.

"I still have a passion to coach and I really desired to coach Canada again. I thought it was the right opportunity. I'm not getting any younger."

He may not be, but Hay is a fit 57-year-old. He's an avid runner who enters the Vancouver half-marathon every year. Hay has also not tired of challenging teenage hockey players to become better.

"He loves to see improvements in his players and that I think, along with his conditioning, is why he always seems like he has energy," says Ryan Huska, who is both Hay's assistant coach on the Canadian team and a former player of Hay's on the Kamloops Blazers.

"He really does love teaching kids and young players," Huska continued. "He likes to get them to progress and challenges them to move on to the next level and that's what drives him."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leafs, Sabres in similar slumping situations

As far as the Toronto Maple Leafs and Buffalo Sabres are concerned, they have a little bit too much in common right now.

With injuries, losing streaks and pressure mounting, there's no denying the importance of Thursday's meeting between the division rivals at Air Canada Centre. They're both among the group of seven Eastern Conference teams separated by only four points.

"We need to win games," Sabres coach Lindy Ruff said Wednesday after practice. "You've got to find a way to fight through even key injuries ... and take advantage of situations to win games. We've been able to tread water. I think (Tuesday's loss in Ottawa) put us a little bit under (playoff position) and we need to bounce back and win a game.

"It's a tough league."

Reminders of that have been plentiful on both ends of the Leafs-Sabres rivalry. Buffalo has been

"We'll get him out there when we can on the power play ... because that's one of the areas he's really good at in the American League."

TORONTO COACH RON WILSON ON FORMER LONDON KNIGHT NAZEM KADRI'S ROLE WITH THE LEAFS

playing without seven regulars, although that number will shrink slightly as forward Patrick Kaleta is expected to draw back into the lineup following a month away with a groin injury.

Toronto lost forwards Colby Armstrong (concussion) and Philippe Dupuis (upper body) this week, forcing the team to recall Nazem Kadri and Darryl Boyce from the American Hockey League.

Both players were with the NHL team during a strong second half a year ago. Kadri, in particular, has the ability to be a difference-maker and is coming off being named the AHL's player of the month in November. The 21-year-old forward will be slotted on a scoring line with Tim Connolly and Clarke MacArthur to start.

"Last year in the second half of the season I thought he did a really good job," said Leafs coach Ron Wilson. "He was good on the boards. He didn't probably get as many offensive looks as he needs to be successful, but playing with Clarkie and Timmy he should get plenty of opportunities offensively.

The last victory for the Sabres came in a 5-4 game against Toronto last week in Buffalo. Since then, they were hammered 8-3 in Pittsburgh on Saturday and lost 4-1 to Ottawa on Tuesday — part of a stretch where the team has gone 3-6-1. THE CANADIAN PRESS

LONDON TRANSIT NEWS

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

Christmas Day December 25 (Sunday)

For Christmas Day, December 25 the following routes will operate on special schedules:

1 Kipps Lane
2 Dundas
3 Hamilton Rd.
4 Oxford East
6 Richmond
7 Wavell
9C Whitehills
15 Westmount
16 Adelaide
20 Cherryhill
21 Huron Heights

The following routes will operate on a regular Sunday/Holiday schedules:

5 Springbank
10 Wonderland
11 Southcrest
12 Wharncliffe
13 Wellington
14 Highbury
17 Oxford West
26 Jalna

On December 27 and January 2 all routes will operate on Saturday schedule

Boxing Day, December 26 (Monday)

For December 26, all routes operating on Sunday (except 2 Dundas and 13 Wellington) will operate on regular Sunday/Holiday schedule. Routes 2 Dundas and 13 Wellington will use a special schedule with extra buses.

Free New Year's Eve Service After 8 pm

London Transit will be offering free rides from 8 pm through 1 am on New Year's Eve. All routes normally operating at 11 pm will be extended to 1 am.

Separate Christmas and New Year's Eve schedules will be available after December 15 at both LTC locations (main office at 450 Highbury Avenue and downtown Ticket Office at 150 Dundas Street) and online at www.ltconline.ca.

my bus info

London Transit wishes you and yours a safe and happy holiday!

Chelsea's Terry faces racism charge

Chelsea star headed to court for October incident, as racism problems continue in soccer

England captain John Terry will be the first soccer player to face a court in Britain on a charge of racially abusing an opponent, the most serious step yet in a crackdown on racism in the sport.

Prosecutors made the decision to charge Terry on Wednesday after studying footage that was broadcast live around the world in October, showing Terry apparently hurling abuse at Queens Park Rangers defender Anton Ferdinand during a Premier League match.

Terry has said his comments were taken out of context and vowed to fight the charges, after prosecutors declared the defender had constituted a "racially aggravated public order offence."

Just a day earlier, Liverpool striker Luis Suarez, a Uruguay international, received an eight-match ban and 40,000-pound ($64,000) fine from the FA for racially abusing a Manchester United player in another match in October.

Suarez's conduct is yet to be investigated by the police.

Racist abuse in European football is nothing new, although most high-profile cases have involved abusive chants from supporters toward opposing players — not on-field incidents.

Terry will have to appear at West London Magistrates' Court on Feb. 1 in a case that could threaten both his public image — worth millions in endorsements — and his international career.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES

▶ John Terry

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Events

WoW! New Years Eve Bash Dec 31
London Ukranian Centre
247 Adelaide St.S Great door prizes.
Music by top DJ Dave Metcalfe, Top 40's & other favs. Late cold buffet.
Tickets $40/ea.For info contact Colleen 519-453-5651 or London Ukranian Centre 519-686-9811

New Years Eve Dinner & Dance
at the Maltese Canadian Club
70 Charterhouse Cres.
Doors open @ 5pm - Dinner @ 6pm
Members $50 each - non-members $70
Call Ted @ 519-472-7593 for tickets

WIN A STREET GLIDE MOTORCYCLE FROM HARLEY DAVIDSON!!!
Street Connection
is holding thier Annual Lottery Fundraiser @ Masonville Mall on Dec 22,23,24 and 26,27,28
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which helps "at risk" youth living on the street.
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For more information
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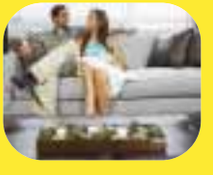

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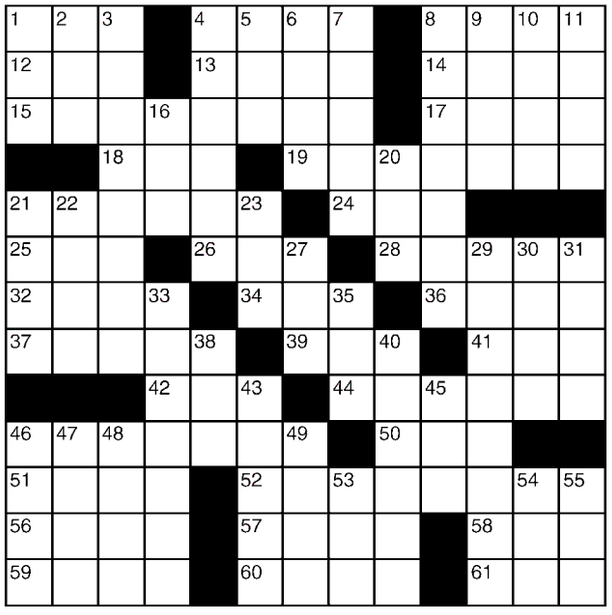
Crossword



Across
1 "Humbug!"
4 Actress Jessica
8 "Pow!"
12 Census statistic
13 Sense
14 Mosque VIP
15 Ball-carrier's target
17 Donate
18 Twosome
19 Beaten down
21 Coarse
24 Definite article
25 Blackbird
26 Gratuity
28 Ballroom dance
32 Baseball team
34 Popular pet
36 Praise highly
37 Trusty horse
39 Young 34-Across
41 Bar supply
42 Caustic solution
44 Recipient's reply
46 Modulate the voice
50 PussyCat's partner
51 Sandwich shop
52 Indispensable aid
56 Plumbing problem
57 Bedouin
58 Neither mate
59 Shaving gel brand
60 Head (Fr.)
61 Ram's fan?

Down
1 Suitcase
2 Earlier
3 Banner
4 Showing buoyancy
5 Mainlander's memento
6 Crooked
7 Watchful
8 "Who cares?"
9 In the thick of
10 Church section
11 Feds
16 Schlep
20 Resistance measure
21 Moving fleet
22 Condominium, e.g.
23 Disencumber
27 Burst
29 Suburban Philadelphia area
30 Dollar
31 Rhyming tributes
33 Thin and slippery
35 Eviscerate
38 Coloring agent
40 "Friends" role
43 Brilliance
45 Puncturing tool
46 Between jobs
47 Require
48 Old Glory
49 Grow weary
53 Adipose tissue
54 Promptly
55 Before

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	A	D		F	A	N	S		H	A	M	S
A	V	A		A	B	I	T		O	G	R	E
N	E	T		C	A	L	A	B	O	O	S	E
G	R	A	N	T			G	O	T			
			A	I	D	A		P	E	R	S	E
B	U	R	N	O	O	S	E		R	E	E	D
I	R	E		N	O	T	R	E		D	A	G
A	G	A	R		M	O	N	G	O	O	S	E
S	E	P	I	A		R	E	G	S			
			O	W	N			H	O	W	D	Y
F	O	O	T	L	O	O	S	E		R	O	E
C	O	V	E		A	R	I	A		A	L	L
C	H	A	R		H	E	R	D		P	E	P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	3		6		7		9	
		9				6		
	4		5		9		8	
	1	8				7	2	
7								9
	5	2				4	6	
	9		4		1		7	
		1				2		
	7		2		8		3	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7	5
5	7	6	8	1	3	2	4	9
2	4	8	7	5	9	1	6	3
9	2	1	4	7	8	3	5	6
7	6	5	3	2	1	4	9	8
4	8	3	9	6	5	7	2	1
1	9	2	5	3	4	6	8	7
6	5	4	1	8	7	9	3	2
8	3	7	6	9	2	5	1	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Matthew Hart, You have been my best love since the day I met you and it will be until we part. I love you always, **ROSE YOUR WIFE**

Danai, Hello My Love, I miss you SO much when you're out of the country! I'm missing my other half! What can I do without you?! Who can i gossip with? MISS U AND LOVE YOU! **YOUR LOVE**

CP "Fred" Here goes nothing. Feel like I missed out last nite for sure! Just wanted to reach out and kiss you so tempted after seeing you 2 days in a row, shaved face was so Much better.lol We have a past,(18yrs) and way different future. If ever another chance for us please let us try.. My candle is lit at both ends not sure if yours is too. Hope to hear from you, today would be nice! Hope you see this. xo **"FRED"**

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Over the next four weeks, you will get numerous opportunities to better yourself. You must take them.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 As the Sun changes signs, your awareness will deepen and many "problems" will cease to exist.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Tread carefully when dealing with other people's money: The potential for trouble is huge.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are now halfway through your solar year. It's the ideal time to take stock of how far you have come.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You need to do more in some areas but less in others. Make sure you get plenty of rest over the next few days.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 As the Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, your confidence will soar and you will start to believe that anything is possible.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you feel drawn to a certain person, it is because your fates are connected.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The Sun is moving into the most social area of your chart and you'll be more open than usual. Embrace it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about improving your cash flow situation. Follow your dream. Make it pay.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 The Sun enters your birth sign today and a new solar year begins. Think big, act big and expect big.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Stick up for yourself today but don't say too much. Sometimes you are too sensitive to criticism.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The problem you are confronted with has a simple solution. Stop making things difficult. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Caption contest

DANNY GOHLKE/ DAPD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUSADEQ SADEQ/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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